

2000/01

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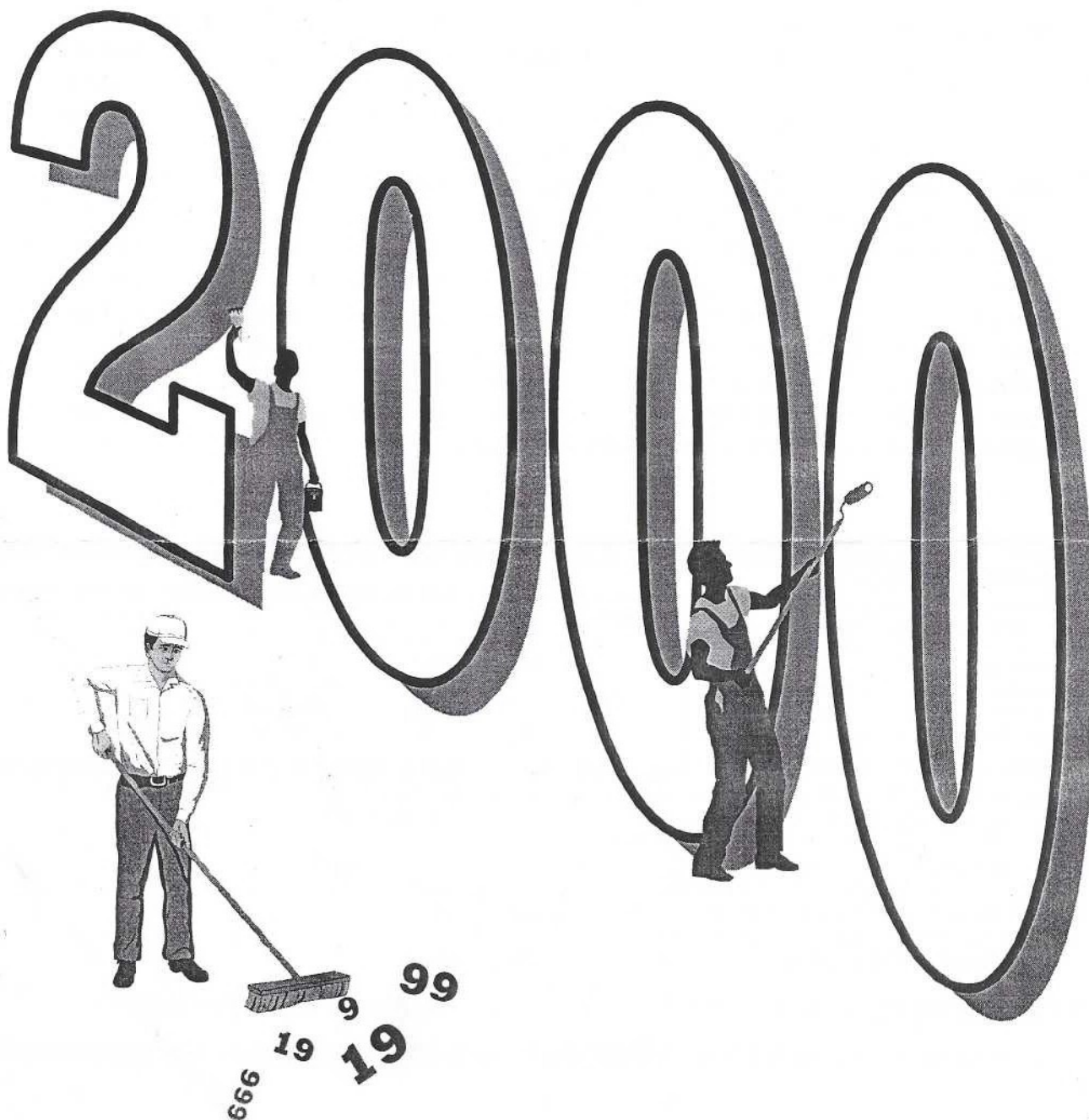
BALLARAT
AMATEUR
RADIO
GROUP INC.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2000

VOLUME 23 No. 1

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. No. 6953T





2000/01

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

Inc. No: 6953T
OF
OFFICE BEARERS - 1999 / 2000



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MEMBERS' REP.	MARY CURNOW	VK3FMC	DICK		5330 1927
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H'MVENT. CO-ORD.	TOM GEORGE	VK3DMK	ELAINE		5339 9737
SCRAMBLE CO-ORD.	REG. CARTER	VK3CAZ	SHELAGH		5341 7585
AMENITIES COMMITTEE	BETTY - SHIRLEY - SHELAGH - MARY.				

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LIFE MEMBERS OF BARG.

VK3SE STAN WIDGERY
VK3CFB JIM WRIGHT
VK3AXH IAN MC.DONALD
VK3WN KEVIN HUGHES
exVK3AQM PHIL SNEDDON

REPEATERS

VK3RBA (Voice)	146.750 MHz. - Mt.Buninyong.
VK3RBS (Voice)	146.900 MHz. - Smeaton Hill
VK 3RPC (Packet)	144.750 MHz. - Mt.Warrenheip.
VK3RBU (Voice)	438.475 MHz. - Mt.Hollowback.
VK3RMB (Beacon)	432.535 MHz. - Mt.Buninyong.
VK3RBV (ATV)	426.250 MHz. - Ballarat

ACTIVITIES CLUB NET: Thursday nights at 8 pm. (8.30 pm during Daylight Saving). Freq: 3.610 MHz +/- QRM.
2 METRE SCRAMBLE: Sunday Nights at 7.50 pm. Freq: 146.425 to 146.600 MHz. Inc,
Call back held on VK3RBA 146.750 MHz.
MEETINGS: General Meeting : Last Friday of each month (except December) at 8.00 pm.
Venue: Club Rooms - Ballarat Airport - Unit 31 - Off Learmonth Road - Ballarat.
CONSTRUCTION NIGHTS: Saturday Afternons at clubrooms.- 1 pm.,
HAMVENTION : 30th & 31st. October 1999.
INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://www1.tpgi.com.au/users/ddi/barg/barg.htm>

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to: The Secretary - BARG Inc. Box 1261 Mail Centre Ballarat 3354

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES to NORM D'Angri (VK3LBA) 29 Lawrence St. Alfredton 3350 - email to :- norval@telstra.easymail.com.au

2000/01

03



MINUTES OF B.A.R.G GENERAL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 26th 1999

The meeting opened at 7:58 pm with Chairperson Doug (VK3VBA) welcoming all in attendance.

APOLOGIES: VK3NIZ, HWK, XDQ, Bob, BPI, Cathy

BUSINESS ARISING: FMC noted an amendment, ADB to liaise with BNC over VK3RBS not VK3RBA access.

Moved CAZ/FMC

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: Letter to WIA re Callbooks, 17 ordered.

- " to Mary VK3FMC thanking her for term as President.
 - " to Ballarat Coachlines for great day out and courtesy of the driver.
 - " to Formosa Gardens, thankyou for donation of plants for the Hamvention.
 - " to Floris Fowler thanking her for donation, it has gone towards plaque in the rose garden.
 - " to Dick Forrester, VK3VU for his donation of 13 copies of Fred Swainston Book for BARG use.
- Phonecall to ACA for regs and rules, hardcopy.

IN: Letter from Allen Snowball 2/32 repeater info.

- " from ACA with reg and rules.
- " from TADVIC
- " from Rotary re due date for tickets.

A.R Magazine. Renewal notice club licence. Assorted club newsletters.

Statement from City of Ballarat, re Club Rooms. Assorted junk mail

DMK/ADB

TREASURERS REPORT: Account details were tabled and read.

REPORTS

AMENITIES: New rubbish bin to purchased for kitchen

BBQ gas cylinder refilled, Smoke detectors new batteries (BNC)

Extinguishers checked

Thanks to CAZ for weeding.

Knox City trip went well.

Rotary Raffle, sold \$1200 of tickets, \$1080 to go to BARG.

Mary VK3FMC

EXAMS Saturday 27th at 1:30pm. 7 candidates. VK3DCS

EDUCATION: Novice Class has finished. VK3VU donation of Swainston books most welcome. VK3DMK

HAMVENTION: Thankyou to all that assisted on Friday, Saturday and or Sunday, a great financial result, don't forget still looking for Co-ordinator for 2001 hamvention. Possibility of 2000 Hamvention having an event of ARDF on the Saturday.

TECHNICAL VK3RBA has been moved to new Police site, however the coax that was put up by a contractor has open circuit in the outer of the coax. Working towards finding climber to replace coax.

Note: Paul Angler? doing repeater installation work, working on RDO (Motorola) and weekends for free.

Date to be organised before end of 1999 to claim Smeaton Hill hardware, new equipment for Ben Nevis.

VK3AXH has RBA cavities that need cleaning. VK3AXH

In a report from Murray AAI, he has been in contact with Peter VK3AVE re packet links. VK3RPS had to vacate its Sunbury site and will be moved to Mt Cottrell near Melton, this however means that VK3BBS aerial will have to be moved to point at new location, climber to be organised, VK3AVE has been unavailable at times due to XYL in hospital for sometime (skin grafts).

WICEN Report on repeater situation in general.

State Communication Committee and Dept of Justice decided on selected Victorian repeaters to be upgraded and linked, \$62,000 supplied to do the job.

The test on 13th of November was problem on 2m due to RBA problems, HF was OK. Need for training in message handling and log keeping before 31st Dec 1999. VK3FGC

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Swainston Books to be used in Novice Class \$10.00 deposit for duration of class.

Lending book to be available at the club rooms for club equipment loans.

HEG donated power supplies, condition being that they are not to be used in computers again.

Offer has been made from local MP to print newsletter free of charge.

MOTION: Moved that BARG accept offer of free printing from Micheal Ronaldson MP with BARG supplying the paper and acknowledgement to printer to be placed in newsletter. Moved LDC Sec DCS

MOTION: Moved that BARG investigate and possibly purchase MFJ UHF Antenna Analyser for BARG equipment.

Moved FGC Sec DCS

DCS suggested the possibility of club foxhunts on Mondays or weekends on regular basis. Response will be checked at January meeting.

Donation from VK3AMC David of assortment of equipment including 70Mhz TX/Rx and a number of powersupplies, if not utilised by May 2000 to be auctioned off.

MEETING CLOSED 9:01pm with VBA wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 28 TH. 2000



"DUMMY LOAD" FOR POWER SUPPLIES – UPDATE FROM REG. VK3CAZ

Back in mid-1995, Brian VK3KQB sent in to the magazine a very neat idea for a 'dummy load for power supplies' using an old smoothing iron element tapped to give 2 amp loads at 13.8 volts and wired up so that you could not get yourself into trouble by switching the sections of element 'in and out' wrongly.

Needing such a load recently I hunted through my files of 'bright ideas' and recovered it.

The snag these days is that such iron elements are in the class of the proverbial 'hens teeth' and don't seem to be available any longer.

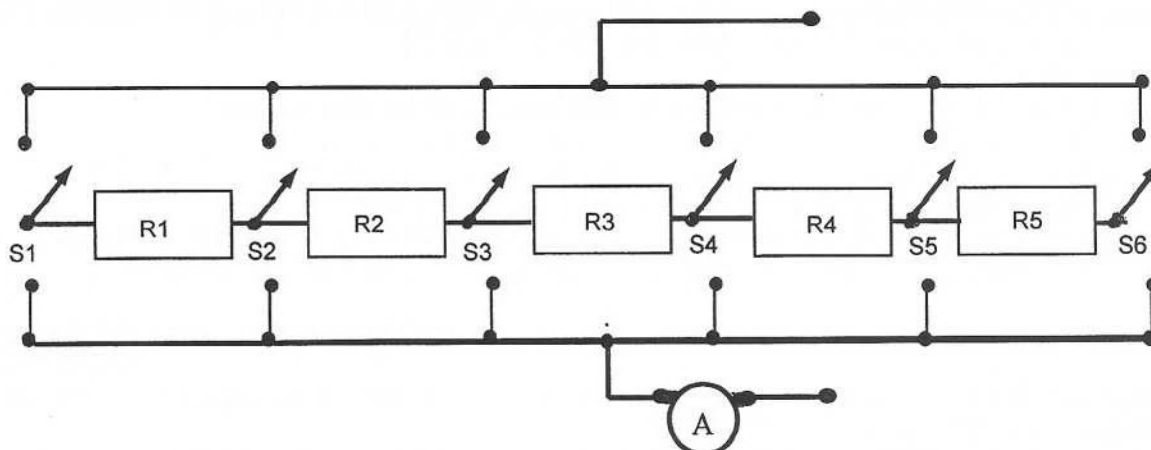
However, to my delight, I found that in Coles Supermarket there are on sale, Jug Elements which are rated at 1.6 kW and believe it or not they have a cold resistance of 35 ohms, which is just the total value needed for the five sections of load resistance incorporated in the dummy load.

The only problem is making the 'taps' onto the spiral element, and I got around that problem by inserting a thin rod into a couple of turns at the desired tapping point and lifting and twisting them until they stood proud of the rest of the element, and I could put a small (about 2mm) nut and bolt, complete with solder tag, through the lifted loops. If you are not sure of the rigidity of the job a little 5 minute epoxy will help to locate the loops correctly.

Otherwise I wired it up exactly as Brian described, and find that, as long as I do not draw so much current as to heat up the element too much, and also keep it well ventilated, as Brian stressed, it does enable me to check the maximum current I can draw from a power supply easily and quickly.

Not having a Moving Iron ammeter, which seem to have joined iron elements in their scarcity, I fitted two binding posts in the input lead so that I could connect my digital meter in circuit and also fitted a switch to short out the ammeter if it was not needed in circuit.

I hope Brian will forgive my plagiarism, but I have reproduced the circuit of the dummy load from his original article as it is so clear that it needs no other explanation.



The switches are as suggested – 'SPDT Centre Off.'



2000/01 (03)

COMING EVENTS



INFORMATION

Friday January 28th. - General Meeting.

Sunday Nights. 2M Scramble - 7.50pm. 146.425 to 146.600 MHz.

Saturday Afternoons - Construction Days - Clubrooms at 1 pm.

Thursday Nights- Club Net - 3.610 MHz. - 8pm (8.30pm in Daylight Saving)

4th. Wednesday each month -WICEN Training nights.

Thursdays 2 pm - Daytime get together - Clubrooms.

First Thursday each month -Amenities sub-committee meet.

POSITION VACANT NEWSLETTER MAILING PERSON

From the Editor

For various reasons, I require some assistance from a BARG member or members to take on the tasks of folding and posting the BARG Newsletter.

The Newsletters would be supplied correlated and with sheets of mailing labels, ready for folding into 3 (Folding Jig supplied), stapling, addressing and bulk posting. Usually postage is required ASAP after receipt from printer. Folding and addressing takes about 1½ hours.

If anyone can help please contact myself or a Committee Member.

Thanks - Ed. Norm VK3LBA

CAR RAFFLE RESULTS

Winner of the Car - Grovedale

2nd Prize - Buninyong

3rd Prize - Corio

SILENT KEY

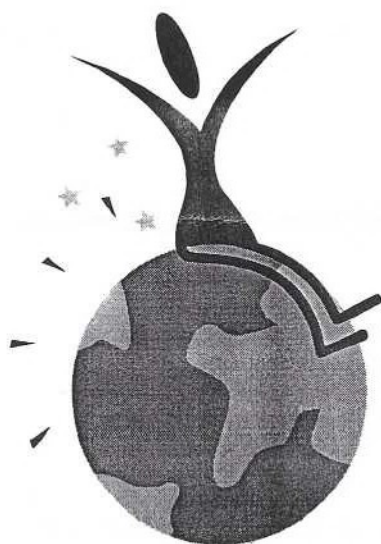
HENRY MORITZ - VK3DXC / VK4DXC

passed away in Queensland during the first week of the New Year.

Henry was a very active member of BARG during its early years and is probably best remembered for his cartoon drawings on Ham Radio topics, and his art contributions to the Newsletter and other BARG functions.

Henry was an Art Teacher for many years at the School of Mines and was well known for his parquetry, comic strips, and Commercial Art and Design. Many of his students went on to be extremely successful in their careers because of the foundations established under Henry's guidance.

BARG members extend their sympathy to his family.



WE MADE IT !

*IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE SWATTED
THE MILLENNIUM BUG
AND DEFIED ALL SORTS OF PROPHECIES*

*SO I GUESS ITS TIME TO WISH ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
A HAPPY NEW YEAR & NEW MILLENNIUM
AND GOOD HEALTH & GOOD FORTUNE
IN THE YEAR 2000*

Word Search.

HOLIDAYS

F	R	G	M	B	A	H	H	S	R	Z	G	C	X	Q
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BEACH
CAMPING
CARAVAN
CRICKET
DRINKING
DRIVING
EATING

SLEEPING
SURFING
SWIMMING
TOURING
VISITORS

FRIENDSHIPS
GARDENING
HEAT
MOTELLING
PARTIES
POKEYS
RELAXATION

70cm Double Helix Antenna

Daryl VK3XDQ has advised me of an excellent article which may be of considerable interest to several members. Unfortunately the article, apart from being rather large, contains many photographs which are referred to quite a lot in the text, and I am unable to reproduce them for inclusion in the Newsletter.

I can however, supply a copy of the article to anyone who would be interested, or alternatively the complete article is available on the internet at the following address:

<http://members.aol.com/k5oe/doublehelix.htm>

It would appear to be an excellent article, and has references to other internet sites for similar antennas. Thanks Daryl.

[Ed. Norm VK3LBA].



A tourist in Ireland walked into a fish shop in Derry and placed his order:

"I'll have fish and chips twice please," he orders.

"Sure, I heard you the first time," came the shopkeepers reply.

The great Arctic explorer Dr Nansen, was giving a lecture on his adventures when an Irishman in the audience interrupted him.

"Sure," bragged Paddy, "Oi've travelled farther North than anybody."

"What nonsense" exclaimed the Doctor, getting angry, I have travelled as far North as any human being can possibly get."

"How do you know that" queried Paddy.

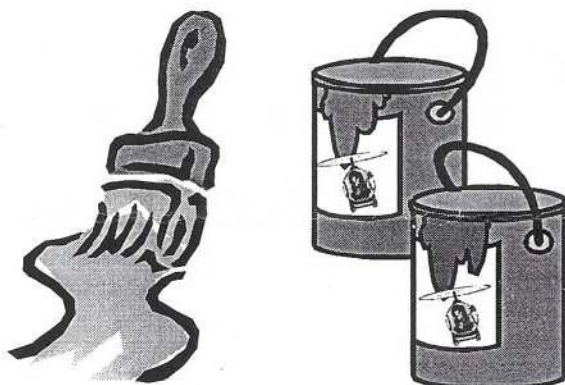
"Because I came to a huge wall of ice that was impenetrable, and after discussing it with my team we had to turn back."

"Ah, Yes Begorrah, I remember now," exclaimed Pat. "Oi heard you discussing it I did. Oi was on the other side of the wall.!"

Paint Problems?

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THANK YOU

We acknowledge the assistance of
The Hon. Michael Ronaldson MP
Federal Member for Ballarat
in the
Printing of this Newsletter.

2000/01 08



Happy Y2K to all

PLEASE NOTE

CUT OFF DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IS NOW THE
SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

B.A.R.G.

The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc.



A group of radio enthusiasts licensed to experiment with
local and international radio communications on an amateur basis.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.
Inc. No: 6953T

MR. G. CORNELL VK3FGC
304 WENDOUREE PDE.
BALLARAT VIC 3355

SURFACE MAIL



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